

CLAIMS

1. Holding tongs (9) for a flexible sleeve (4), characterised in that they comprise two articulated branches (10, 11), the branches comprising facing edges (13, 14) separated by a distance corresponding almost 5 to the same thickness as the sleeve when they are held parallel in a closed position of the branches, a means (19) of closing the branches, and indentations (20) on one of the facing edges.

10        2. Holding tongs according to Claim 1, characterised in that the means of closing the branches is a spring compressed between two handles (17, 18) respectively extending the branches (10, 11) and set beyond the branches in relation to an articulation 15 point (12).

3. Sealing process of a flexible sleeve fixed on an opening (1) of a low pressure chamber (2) by applying heated tongs (6), characterised in that it 20 comprises a preparatory installation stage for a pair of tongs according to one or the other of Claims 1 or 2 on a portion of the sleeve at the level of the link with the opening (1) of the chamber (2) and a sealing region (8) of the sleeve.

*J 156*